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GREAT HARWOOD  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health  
and Public Health Inspector



FOR THE YEAR

1958



GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT  
on the  
HEALTH AND SANITARY ADMINISTRATION  
of the  
DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR  
1958

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R. C. WEBSTER

Medical Officer of Health

G. WALMSLEY

Public Health Inspector and  
Cleansing Superintendent.



MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
1958       -       1959

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CHAIRMAN

County Councillor, F. AINSWORTH

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor T. MELLING

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COMMITTEE

Councillors: -

G. A. Monckman

F. Coady

J. Wyatt

L. B. Greenwood.

E. Whalley (Vice-Chairman  
of Council)

J. Dunn, J.P.  
(Chairman of Council)

J.T. Smith

Mrs. R. Shaw.

V. Maquire.

H. Doswell, J.P.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
Administrative Staff

Medical Officer of Health  
and  
Divisional Medical Officer of Health (No. 5 Division)  
R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H

Public Health Inspector  
and  
Cleansing Superintendent  
G. WALMSLEY, M.R.S.P.H., M.A.P.H.I.





HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE TO GREAT HARWOOD

<u>Divisional Health Committee</u>	Office at 19 St. James Street, Accrington, Telephone Accrington. 4223.
<u>Divisional Medical Officer</u>	Dr. R. C. Webster.
<u>Ante-Natal Clinics</u>	Water Street, Great Harwood. Alternate Thursday mornings.
<u>County Clinic</u>	High Street, Rishton. First and Third Wednesday each month.
<u>Child Welfare Clinic</u>	Water Street, Great Harwood. All day every Wednesday. Immunisation and U.V.R. by appointment.
<u>Health Visitors</u>	Mrs. Shiner, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Mrs. Kelgallon, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
<u>District Nurses</u>	Miss. Oldale, S.R.N., Queen's Nurse.
<u>Midwife</u>	Mrs. Izatt, S.C.M., S.R.N.,

For the following services:-

Day Nurseries, Domestic Helps, Mental Health Service,  
Accommodation for the elderly (not sick) persons.

enquiries should be made at the Divisional Health Office,  
19 St. James Street, Accrington.

<u>Divisional Education Executive</u>	Divisional Medical Officer, Dr. R. C. WEBSTER.
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School medical routine and special examination

Minor ailment clinic every Friday morning.

Ophthalmic and Orthopaedic Clinic (by appointment)  
at High Street, Rishton.



19 St. James' Street,

Accrington.

Lancs.

To:- The Chairman and Members  
of the Council of Great Harwood.

Mr. Chairman, Lady, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1958.

The year was an uneventful one and this is, of course, the aim of Public Health Services, to see that each year is one in which there are no special health matters for comment, but rather that each year shall be one in which the level of public health is satisfactorily maintained.

You will notice that the birth rate for the town is somewhat below that of England and Wales generally and that on the other hand the death rate is slightly above that for the country as a whole. The reason for this is largely due to the age distribution of the population, since one notices that the actual birth rate and the actual death rate have to be adjusted by factors to make them comparable with the standard population which indicate that this is the reason.

The incidence of infectious diseases during the year was negligible with the exception of our old enemy, measles, which recurs in two year cycles, but even here it is satisfactory to note that measles seems to have lost much of its sting in recent years.

During the year progress was made towards the completion of the new clinic to serve the town, and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking, on behalf of the county service, the District Council for the facilities they have given us for so many years in the Mercer Hall.

To yourself, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Authority and to my fellow officials, in particular Mr. Bingham, the Clerk of the Council, and Mr. Walmsley the Senior Public Health Inspector, I should like to express my thanks for help and co-operation throughout the year. Perhaps one of the most satisfactory features of Local Government Work is the happy atmosphere and the sense of being a member of a team and that I have had in full measure at Great Harwood throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. C. WEBSTER.

Medical Officer of Health.



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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE AREA

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## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

### GENERAL

Area in acres .. .. .	2868
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1958 ..	3895
Rateable Value . . . . .	£97,396
Sum represented by a penny rate (1959) .. ..	£400
Population at 1951 Census .. .. .	10738
Estimated Population for 1958 . . . . .	10,670

### CHIEF INDUSTRIES IN THE AREA

The principal industries are the manufacture of cotton goods, light engineering trades, footwear, coated felts, floor coverings and foot packing.





# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

## LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate .. .. .	66	75	141
Illegitimate .. .. .	<u>Nil</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total .. .. .	<u>66</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>142</u>

Live Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population:

Crude .. .. .	13.3
Adjusted . . . .	14.8

## STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate .. .. .	2	2	4
Illegitimate .. .. .	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>

Still Birth rate per 1,000 total births .. 27.4

## DEATHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths .. .. .	89	85	174

Mortality rate per 1,000 estimated population:

Crude .. .. .	16.3
Adjusted .. .. .	15.6

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population:

(England and Wales) .. .. 11.7

INFANT MORTALITY - Four deaths occurred of infants under the age of one year.

1 Male - Prem.      1 Male - Hyaline membrane disease.  
1 Female - Prem.    1 Male - Asphyxia.

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - total	28.2
" " " " " " " - legitimate	0.02
" " " " " " " - illegitimate	0.00
Neo Natal " " " " " " "	
(first four weeks)	3.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	0.70
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	Nil



Comparative Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates  
Analysis of Mortality and Maternal Mortality, in  
the year 1958

	England and Wales	GREAT HARWOOD
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population	
<u>Births</u>		
Live Births	16.4	14.8
Still Births	21.6 (a)	27.4
<u>Deaths</u>		
All causes	11.7	15.6
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	0.09	0.09
Cancer (all forms)	2.12	2.06
Lung & Bronchus	0.44	
Other cancer	1.68	
Maternal Mortality	0.43 (a)	Nil
Infant Mortality	22.5 (b)	28.2
Neo-natal mortality	16.2 (b)	21.1
<u>Notifications (Corrected)</u>		
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.00
Meningococcal Infection	0.02	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.86	0.18
Whooping Cough	0.74	0.56
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	0.07	0.00
Measles	5.75	5.60
Pneumonia (Acute)	0.49	0.18
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.04	0.00
Acute Encephalitis	0.00	0.00
Food Poisoning	0.20	0.00
Puerperal Pyrexia	0.24	0.00

- (a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)  
(b) Per 1,000 related Live Births.



CAUSES OF DEATH	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1	1
Tuberculosis, others	-	-	-
Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infectious and parasitic disease	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, Bronchus	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
Other malignant & Lymphatic neoplasms	4	6	10
Leukaemia, Alukaemia	2	-	2
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	21	11	32
Coronary disease, angina	15	7	22
Hypertension with heart disease	2	2	4
Other heart diseases	10	26	36
Other circulatory diseases	8	1	9
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	3	5
Bronchitis	10	6	16
Other diseases of the respiratory system	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	2	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformation	-	-	-
Other defined & ill defined diseases	5	7	12
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
Suicide	1	-	1
Homicide & operations of war	-	-	-
All other accidents	-	5	5
	89	85	174



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GENERAL PROVISIONS  
of the  
HEALTH SERVICE

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### LABORATORY FACILITIES

All Pathological and Bacteriological work for the Health Department is carried out at Blackburn Royal Infirmary. I wish to thank Dr. Spink and his staff for their assistance during the year.

### AMBULANCE SERVICE

This service is administered by the No. 5. Health Division of the Lancashire County Council. Two ambulances and one sitting case car are available for the district. The ambulance station is day-manned, and night-calls are dealt with by the ambulance station at Accrington.

### HOME HELP SERVICE

The Home Help service is administered by the Divisional Health Authority.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

A weekly clinic is held for children under five years, and a pre-natal clinic is held once a fortnight. The duties are under the control of the Divisional Health Authority. A new Health Centre has been completed in Water Street.

### DAY NURSERIES

There is one day nursery in the town, administered by the Divisional Health Authority.

### HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION

One hostel is available for aged persons. It is operated by the County Council and has accommodation for thirty-nine men and women.



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PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

of

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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## TUBERCULOSIS

The administration is carried out by the Lancashire County Council and Regional Hospital Board, and co-operation is maintained through the Public Health Department. Disinfection of articles and premises is carried out when necessary.

During the year the tuberculosis register was revised and the total number of cases on the register at 31st December, 1958, is as follows:-

<u>Respiratory</u>			<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		
<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
28	25	53	4	2	6

Ages	NEW CASES *				DEATHS			
	<u>Resp.</u>		<u>Non-Resp.</u>		<u>Resp.</u>		<u>Non-Resp.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
75 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	6	8	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil

\* Includes three cases from other districts.

<u>Respiratory deaths</u>	<u>Great Harwood</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>
Rate per 1,000 population	0.09	0.09



## TUBERCULOSIS

The Mass Radiography unit visited Great Harwood in July and the number of persons attending was 3190.

In Great Harwood 5 cases of active tuberculosis were discovered giving a rate of 1.6 per thousand x-rayed and one case of bronchial carcinoma was discovered.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of infectious diseases notified:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Measles .. ..	60	-
Whooping Cough .	6	-
Pneumonia. ..	Nil	5
Scarlet Fever ..	2	-
Dysentery. ..	Nil	-
Erysipelas ..	Nil	-

## DIPHTHERIA

No cases of diphtheria were reported during the year. The diphtheria immunisation administration is carried out by the Divisional Health Authority.





GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

and

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

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Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my eleventh annual report for the year 1958. During the year the Litter Act came into force and the number of litter bins in the town are to be increased. It was noticable that school children are the worst offenders for dropping litter in the form of sweet wrappers in the vicinity of shops and schools but the provision of more litter bins may help to reduce this litter nuisance.

The new mechanical sweeper is sweeping approximately 40 miles per week and a marked improvement in the cleanliness of the streets has been noticed. The many sett-paved streets are difficult to sweep due to the uneven surface and re-surfacing would ensure more efficient sweeping and reduce considerably the wear and tear of the brushes.

A record number of waste water closets were converted the number being 116. The amount of salvage collected during the year dropped slightly but this was due to diffuculties in finding a market for disposal.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Comrittee for their support and I should also like to thank the officials and staff for their assistance during the year.

Yours faithfully,

G. WALMSLEY.



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

of FOOD



## MILK AND DAIRIES

Number of farms	18
Ungraded Producers	Nil
"T.T." Producers (Retail)	12

## MILK SAMPLES

	Methylene Blue Test		Tubercle Bacilli Test		Phosphate Test
	Sat.	Unsat.	Neg.	Pos.	Sat.
"T.T." Ungraded	14 Nil	Nil Nil	14 Nil	- -	1
	14	Nil	14	Nil	1

## ICE CREAM REGULATIONS

Manufacturers (hot mix )	..	..	..	1
Manufacturers (cold mix)	..	..	..	Nil
Vendors (shops etc.)	..	..	..	44
Hawkers .. .. .	...	..	..	Nil

## WATER SUPPLY

### Raw Water Samples

Bacteriological Examinations .. ..	48
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### Treated Water Samples

Bacteriological Examinations .. ..	96
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## FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

A total of 56 samples was obtained, consisting of 41 samples of milk (2 of Channel Islands milk) and 15 others comprising:-

1 Pork sausage	1 Molasses
1 Meat paste	1 Bacon
2 Soup - canned	2 Barley
1 Bland's pills	2 Fruit - canned
1 Malt extract with cod liver oil.	1 Baking powder
	2 Flour confectionery

The samples were submitted for analysis to the County Analyst and, with the exception of those listed below, were all reported to be genuine:-

<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Result of Analysis</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
C.52	Milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 0.3% of extraneous water.	) Same vendor. Vendor was cautioned and further samples obtained.
C.53	Milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 0.1% of extraneous water.	
C.58	Milk	Fat content only 2.85%, deficient 8.3% of fat.	Vendor notified.
C.437	Milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 1.1% of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.



## STORAGE, SALE AND PREPARATION OF FOOD

Number of food premises and type, at the end of the year:-

General Grocers .. .. .	42
Greengrocers (including sale of fish) ..	17
Fishmonger .. .. .	1
Butchers .. .. .	14
Tripe .. .. .	2
Confectioners .. .. .	32
Fish and Chip .. .. .	9
Ice Cream .. .. .	44

### Number of registered premises

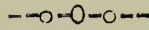
Ice Cream .. .. .	44
Meat Preparation etc. . . . .	15

### Food Hygeine Regulations

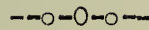
Twenty-four notices were served regarding alterations to premises and the provision of hand basins and hot water supplies.

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## H O U S I N G





The bulk of housing repairs during the year was carried out mainly under the provisions of the Rent Act 1957, details of which are shown below. Many improvements to property were carried out by owner-occupiers the improvements being the installation of baths, hot water supplies and the conversion of waste water closets.

#### RENT ACT 1957

##### Part I - Applications for Certificates of Disrepair

- (1) Number of applications for certificates .. 32
- (2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates .. 6
- (3) Number of decisions to issue certificates .....
- (a) in respect of some but not all defects ..4
- (b) in respect of all defects .. 12
- (4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the first Schedule .. 18.
- (5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule .. None
- (6) Number of Certificates issued .. 6.

##### Part II - Applications for Cancellation of Certificates

- (7) Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates .. 1.

#### UNFIT HOUSES:

Three houses were scheduled for demolition in Mercer Street, and six houses were demolished in Queen Street.





### UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES

1. (a) Number of houses inspected for defects under Public Health and Housing Acts. .. .. 84
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. .180
2. (a) Number of houses found to be in such a state as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. . 3
- (b) Number of houses, excluding 2 (a) above found not in all respects fit for human habitation .. .. . 20
- Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .. .. . 18
3. Number of houses demolished (Section IX) .. .. Nil

### ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9,10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
  - (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..Nil.
  - (2) Number of dwelling houses which after service of formal notices were rendered fit:
    - a. By owners .. .. . Nil
    - b. By Local Authority in default of owners .. Nil
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
  - (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. . 24
  - (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
    - a. By owners .. .. . 20
    - b. By Local Authority in default of owners .. Nil



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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

of the

DISTRICT

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## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

116 Waste water closets were converted during the year. There are 1581 waste water closets in the district. Four pail closets are situated on the outskirts of the town and are emptied weekly.

## FACTORIES

There are 91 factories including bakehouses on the register, and 74 visits were made during the year. Sanitary accommodation called for the most attention and informal action only was required to remedy the defects.

## RODENT CONTROL

A part-time rodent operator is employed, and the following details show the amount of work carried out during the year.

Properties inspected .. .. 96  
Rat infestation found .. .. 74  
Mice infestation found . .. 20

In addition, tips, river banks, etc., were treated for rat infestation, and a full sewer maintenance treatment was undertaken.

## TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are no authorised camping sites in the district.

## SALVAGE:

YEAR	Tons.	Cwt.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.	Av'ge ton per month <u>tons. cwt.</u>	
1958	119	11	3	762	16	6	9	19
1957	131	11	-	855	1	-	10	19
1956	134	2	1	975	13	-	11	3
1955	151	12	3	1212	12	-	12	12
1954	132	14	2	828	2	10	11	1
1953	109	3	1	599	-	-	9	1
1952	98	9	3	980	16	7	8	4



# ANALYSIS OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION CAUSE

	1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		
	R.	S.	R.	S.	R.	S.	R.	S.	R.	S.	R.	S.	
January	-	-	1.85	-	4.0	24.8	3.8	26.6	4.57	21.84	2.2	11.1	
February	-	-	1.50	11.0	1.9	12.6	5.8	14.9	5.88	14.51	0.67	11.32	
March	-		1.52	16.2	1.3	21.6	3.4	27.1	2.01	11.10	1.69	16.38	
April			3.51	20.2	2.3	19.7	0.5	28.7	1.63	10.62			
May	3.08		3.60	17.4	1.3	20.9	2.0	23.9	4.97	15.23			
June			2.74	28.9	2.5	23.0	1.1	24.4	4.57	14.32			
July	7.48		1.10	11.9	5.0	32.0	4.9	24.4	4.5	-			
August	5.59	No figures available											
September	6.46		3.60	15.9	4.6	17.8	6.1	23.1	4.6	25.3			
October	7.64		3.21	25.1	3.0	26.7	7.05	18.20	4.6	16.5			
November	5.24		2.47	10.3	1.6	18.7	2.19	11.26	1.6	7.9			
December	5.67		4.53	39.1	4.0	30.6	5.04	19.10	4.3	21.5			
TOTAL	40.7		30.64	217.4	41.5	274.8	41.2	267.7	47.83	169.20	4.56	38.80	
Monthly Average.	5.80		2.55	19.7	3.45	22.9	3.43	22.3	3.98	15.38	1.18	12.70	

R. Rainfall in Inches

S. Total solids

tons per sq. mile





CLEANSING SERVICE

Table showing costs for the year ending 31st March, 1959

Item	Particulars	Refuse collection.	Refuse Disposal	Salvage	Street Cleansing inc: gully cleaning, Street sweeping - District.
A.	Gross Expenditure	£4293	£2061	£635	£805
B.	Gross Income	£124	£761	£761	-
C.	Net Cost	£4169	£1300	£126	£805
D.	Net cost per 1,000 houses or premises.	£926	£288	-	-
E.	Net cost per 1,000 population	£416	£130	-	-
F.	Net cost equivalent rate in £.	10.4d.	3.2d.	-	2.0d.

